

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PHASE II OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE - REPORT NO. 1

1. AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 4 PHASE II OF OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE COMMENCED IN WASHINGTON WITH SESSION OF GENERAL SUBCOMMITTEE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF CARLOS GARCIA BEDOYA OF PERU. SUBCOMMITTEES I AND II (POLITICAL/JURIDICAL AND ECONOMIC RESPECTIVELY) BEGAN MEETING AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 5; HOWEVER, SUBCOMMITTEE II WILL RECESS DURING WASHINGTON MEETING OF IA-ECOSOC, SEPTEMBER 11-15. SUBCOMMITTEE III (STRUCTURE) WILL DELAY DELIBERATIONS UNTIL OTHER SUBCOMMITTEES MAKE SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS WHICH MIGHT CHANGE STRUCTURE OF OAS. MOST DELEGATIONS ARE CURRENTLY HEADED BY THEIR OAS AMBASSADOR AND STAFFED BY PERSONNEL FROM THEIR MISSIONS WITH OCCASIONAL OUTSIDE REINFORCEMENTS, PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF PERU.

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2. SUBCOMMITTEE I CHAIRMAN DE LA COLINA OF MEXICO OPENED

SEPTEMBER 5 MEETING BY PROPOSING THAT A WEEK OF DISCUSSION BE DEVOTED TO EACH OF THREE MAIN TOPICS: RIO TREATY; PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF OAS CHARTER; AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. THIS PLAN OF ACTION WAS AGREED ON; HOWEVER, SOME DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY WAS BUILT IN TO PERMIT SWITCHING FROM ONE TOPIC TO ANOTHER IF DEBATE BOGS DOWN.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE I THEN TURNED TO CONSIDERATION OF PERUVIAN

PROPOSALS FOR REFORMS OF RIO TREATY (SEE SEPTTEL FOR SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS). PERUVIAN DELEGATE BELAUNDE GAVE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES AND OFFERED SOME COMPARISONS WITH SUGGESTED TREATY REFORMS PRESENTED BY MEXICO AT LIMA. INITIAL REACTION OF MOST DELEGATIONS WAS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO HAVE TIME TO STUDY THE PERUVIAN DOCUMENT; HOWEVER, BOTH BRAZIL (MACIEL) AND HONDURAS (JONES) PUT QUESTIONS TO PERU. BRAZIL CAME DOWN HARD ON PERU'S INTRODUCTION OF CONCEPT OF ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AND OMISSION OF POLITICAL AND OTHER TYPES OF INDIRECT AGGRESSION. HONDURAS ARGUED FOR NEED FOR PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN FACE OF MERE THREAT OF AGGRESSION. (PERUVIAN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE 6 OF PRESENT TREATY DEALING WITH INDIRECT AGGRESSION, THREATS TO THE PEACE, AND OTHER SITUATIONS SHORT OF ARMED ATTACK). BELAUNDE'S RESPONSE WAS A LAME ONE, POINTING OUT THAT ARMED ATTACK AND ECONOMIC AGGRESSION WERE DEFINEABLE AND THAT OTHER SITUATIONS COULD BE HANDLED BY A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONVOKED UNDER THE OAS CHARTER.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE II, CHAIRED BY LEORO OF ECUADOR, ALSO MET BRIEFLY ON AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 5. WORK WAS HINDERED BY LACK OF FIRM PROPOSALS BY DELEGATIONS AND IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WILL BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER IA-ECOSOC MEETING. PERU INDICATED THAT IT HOPED TO HAVE READY FOR THE SEPTEMBER 6 SESSION A SECOND WORKING DOCUMENT AND THE MEETING RECESSED TO AWAIT THE PERUVIAN PRESENTATION. RUSH

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